In the Claims:

Claims 1-17 and 21-24 have been canceled, as set forth below, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject materr therein.

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method of improving resistance or tolerance in a plant and its descendant plants to a nematode, comprising:

(i) integrating into a genome of a plant a DNA molecule encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises

(a) a first protein, or protein domain, with anti-pathogenic activity, wherein said first protein or protein domain comprises Oc-IΔD86 or Oc-I;

(b) a linker peptide comprising an amino acid sequence characterized by at least one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 11; and

(c) a second protein, or protein domain, with anti-pathogenic activity, wherein said second protein or protein domain comprises CpTI;

thus producing a plant with improved nematode resistance or tolerance; and optionally

(ii) generating a descendant plant.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said fusion protein further comprises at least one additional protein or protein domain fused by at least one additional linker peptide to at least one of said first protein or protein domain, said linker peptide, and said second protein or protein domain.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said DNA molecule comprises a promoter sequence capable of driving expression preferentially in roots.

Claims 21-24 (canceled).